

# INFORMATION LETTER

## NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

No. 1758

Washington, D. C.

November 28, 1959

### FDA List of Food Additives Generally Recognized as Safe

The FDA published in the *Federal Register* of November 20 a regulation listing substances that are generally recognized as safe within the meaning of the 1958 Food Additive Amendment to the Food and Drug Act. The text of the FDA regulation has been reproduced and distributed by N.C.A. as a Supplement to the INFORMATION LETTER.

### Labor Dept. Regulation on Migrant Worker Recruitment

The Secretary of Labor has published in the *Federal Register* of November 20 a regulation establishing standards of employment for domestic agricultural workers as a requisite to interstate recruitment by the USES and state employment services.

The regulation is designed to prevent the use of tax-supported facilities in recruitment of domestic farm workers from out-of-state sources un-

less wages, housing and facilities, transportation, and general working conditions offered by the employer are in line with prevailing standards in the area of employment.

The regulation was based on a proposal made by the Secretary of Labor last August 12 (see INFORMATION LETTER of Aug. 15, page 257) and on comments received at public hearings September 10-11.

The Secretary's order does not contain a provision, that was in the proposal, that would have required the employment service to check into a farm worker's past employment history before referring him to an out-of-state job. Other changes from the original proposal make clear that the regulation refers to domestic farm workers and not to foreign nationals covered under other laws; that the transportation regulations refer to cost and not to safety provisions, which are covered under existing ICC regulations; and prevailing conditions are governed by the number of workers affected by such conditions and not by the number of employers involved.

The text of the Labor Department regulation is reproduced on page 328.

### Cranberries Being Cleared for Holiday Market

Government and industry worked this week on clearing cranberries for sale under the program established by Secretary Flemming and on promoting their distribution and sale for the holiday season.

The N.C.A. assisted members in applying the Flemming plan to individual circumstances. The Research Laboratories in Washington and Berkeley used sampling procedures and testing methods consistent with the methods and procedures used by the FDA in checking canned cranberries packed by members.

The Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, issued a public statement November 20 calling on all segments of the food industry for a massive merchandising effort to help cranberry growers re-establish their markets. And he urged consumers to resume using cranberries, as soon as cleared supplies are offered for consumption.

The Secretary has asked all national, regional and local information, educational and food staffs of the USDA to assist in a vigorous campaign to increase consumption of cranberries in the immediate Thanksgiving and Christmas period, and to embark on a long-range program "to restore this excellent and healthful fruit to a year-round place on the nation's tables."

He also urged food industry leaders to help restore public confidence in cranberries. Following is the text of Secretary Benson's telegram to food industry leaders:

"Cranberry producers and the entire industry urgently need your help in re-establishing the market for cranberries. We have every hope that ample supplies of cranberries will be cleared for Thanksgiving and Christmas markets. I can assure you of the utmost effort on the part of this Department in assisting you toward restoring public confidence in this traditional holiday food. In view of the consuming public's respect for and confidence in the members of your organization, I am confident the nation's

### Convention Session To Be Devoted to Canned Foods Quality

Two canners, a leading home economist, and a national authority on radioisotopes will participate in the opening technical session of the 1960 N.C.A. Convention on Tuesday, January 19, at Miami Beach. The theme of this breakfast meeting will be "Problems in Quality and Quality Control of Foods."

A report on "What the Consumer Expects in the Quality of Canned Foods" will be made by Mrs. Agnes R. Olmstead, director of home economics for Colonial Stores, Inc., Atlanta.

"Quality Control Techniques Available to the Average Canner" will be described by Bruno A. Filice, food technologist in charge of quality control for Filice and Perrelli Canning Company, Richmond, Calif.

Ian MacPhail, manager of factory quality control for H. J. Heinz Company, Pittsburgh, will discuss "Quality Protection with Statistical Quality Control."

Future opportunities for the increased use of radioactive materials in food quality control technology will be described by Dr. John H. Rust, head of the Section on Nuclear Medicine at the University of Chicago's School of Medicine.

The second research session, beginning with breakfast on Wednesday, January 20, will be a "Canned Foods Problem Clinic," an idea which was tried successfully for the first time at the 1959 convention.

Both technical sessions are being sponsored jointly by the N.C.A. Research Laboratories and the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association.

housewives will respond to your appeal. Because of the shortness of time, please urge your membership to develop vigorous merchandising plans and put them into action as soon as cleared supplies are available. I have directed the Department's informa-

tional, educational and Plentiful Foods staffs to assist nationally, regionally and locally in helping you in this effort. I join cranberry growers in expressing appreciation for any assistance your group can give in this critical marketing situation."

### N.C.A. Cranberry Sampling Proposal Approved by FDA

The Food and Drug Administration on November 25 approved a procedure suggested by the N.C.A. for sampling canned cranberry products which have left the canner's warehouses and are in the channels of distribution. The procedure will greatly reduce the number of separate analyses and samples required under Emergency Sampling Plan I issued by the FDA on November 19.

The N.C.A. proposal provides for a single, composite sample for chemical analyses for each code instead of from each lot. To utilize the N.C.A. proposal, the canner must ascertain the quantity of each code number now held at each point in the channels of distribution. This information will then be used to provide the basis for a random sample of the lot. The number of cans in the sample would be based

upon the total number of cases of the lot still unsold at all locations, i.e., 12 cans for lots of less than 100 cases, 24 cans for lots of 100 to 200 cases, and 36 cans for lots of over 200 cases.

To implement, the following steps should be taken:

1. Ascertain the number of cases of each code in each distributor location.
2. Send the record of the quantity at each location for each lot to N.C.A.
3. N.C.A. will then inform the canner the number of cans to obtain from the various locations for the official test analysis.
4. Select at random the number of cans required from each location.
5. Conduct a chemical analysis on a composite sample of equal portions from 12 cans.

### Labor Department Regulation Establishing Standards for Interstate Recruitment of Domestic Agricultural Workers

Following is the text of the Labor Department regulation establishing standards of employment for domestic agricultural workers as a requisite to interstate recruitment by the USES and state employment services, as published in the *Federal Register* on November 20:

#### Title 20—EMPLOYEES' BENEFITS Chapter V—Bureau of Employment Security, Department of Labor

##### PART 602—COOPERATION OF UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AND STATES IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT OFFICES

###### Interstate Recruitment of Agricultural Workers

On August 12, 1959, notice was published in the *Federal Register* that I proposed to amend 20 CFR Parts 602 and 604.

The notice provided that interested persons could make oral presentation at a hearing held for this purpose or could submit data, views and arguments in writing. All such oral testimony, proposals and supporting reasons presented at the hearing, and all written data, views and arguments received at and after the hearing

have been carefully considered. The proposal to amend 20 CFR Part 604 will not be adopted. The amendments proposed to 20 CFR Part 602 are herein adopted as proposed with minor clarifying changes.

The purpose of these amendments is to make certain, before interstate recruitment of domestic agricultural workers by the United States Employment Service, that the wages, housing and facilities, provisions for transportation, and other terms and conditions of employment accord to prevailing standards of employment. Based on the data received in response to the proposal, all other information available to me, and the authority in section 12, 48 Stat. 117 as amended, 29 U.S.C. 49k, 20 CFR 602.9 is hereby amended, effective December 20, 1959, to read as follows:

###### § 602.9 Interstate recruitment of agricultural workers.

No order for recruitment of domestic agricultural workers shall be placed into interstate clearance unless there are assurances from the State agency that:

(a) The State agency has established, pursuant to recruitment efforts made in accordance with regulations, policies and procedures of the Bureau

of Employment Security (United States Employment Service), that domestic agricultural workers are not available locally or within the State.

(b) The State agency has compiled and examined data on the estimated crop acreage, yield and other production factors in accordance with procedures established by the Bureau of Employment Security (United States Employment Service) to assure the validity of need and the minimum number of agricultural workers required.

(c) The State agency has ascertained that wages offered are not less than the wages prevailing in the area of employment among similarly employed domestic agricultural workers recruited within the State and not less than those prevailing in the area of employment among similarly employed domestic agricultural workers recruited outside the State.

(d) The State agency has ascertained that housing and facilities (1) are available; (2) are hygienic and adequate to the climatic conditions of the area of employment; (3) are reasonably calculated to accommodate available domestic agricultural workers; and (4) conform to the requirements of the applicable State, county or local housing and sanitary codes or, in the absence of such applicable codes, have been determined by the State agency to be such as will not endanger the lives, health or safety of the workers. In making such determinations the State agency shall give full consideration to the applicable recommendations of the President's Committee on Migratory Labor with respect to housing and related facilities.

(e) The State agency has ascertained that the employer has offered to provide or pay for transportation for domestic agricultural workers (1) at terms not less favorable to the workers than those prevailing among the domestic agricultural workers in the area of employment recruited from the area of supply; or (2) in the absence of such prevailing practice in the area of employment, at terms not less favorable to the workers than those which prevail among the domestic agricultural workers recruited by out-of-State employers who recruit domestic agricultural workers from the area of supply, as determined by the State Agency in the State requested to supply the workers.

(f) The State agency has ascertained that other terms and conditions of employment offered are not less favorable than those prevailing in the area of employment for domestic agricultural workers for similar work.

(Sec. 12, 48 Stat. 117, as amended; 29 U.S.C. 49k)

Signed at Washington, D. C., this 18th day of November 1959.

JAMES P. MITCHELL,  
Secretary of Labor.

## Distribution of Canned Foods by Mode of Transportation

The Bureau of the Census has just issued a report dealing with the *Transportation and Distribution of Canned Foods* during the 12 months ending June 30, 1958. In 1954 a similar report was issued. Included in the present survey are canned meats, milk, fish, fruits, vegetables, jams, jellies and preserves, baby foods, soups and specialties.

The report presents data showing recent trends in the relative distribution of canned food among various carriers. Although the sample was designed primarily to measure movement of canned foods as a whole, considerable information was presented for each of the various classes of canned foods.

Railroads hauled about 45 percent of the total tonnage. Trucks transported about 50 percent of the total, about equally divided between for-hire motor carriers and private trucks. About 5 percent was hauled by all other means of transportation, primarily water carriers and freight forwarders.

One of the outstanding findings of the survey was the sharp contrast in the relative distribution of tonnage among means of transport. For example, in the United States as a whole, railroads handled less than one-third of the total tonnage of canned meats, in contrast to over four-fifths of the total tonnage of canned milk. As an illustration of geographic contrasts, for-hire motor carriers' share of tons of canned foods ranged from 47 percent in the East to 17 percent in the Pacific Coast area.

With respect to trends between the calendar year 1954 and the 12 months ended June 30, 1958, a period of three and one-half years, the railroads' share of total tons of products shipped by the canned fruits and vegetables industry dropped from about 47 to 43 percent. For-hire motor carriers con-

## Stocks of Canned Foods on Nov. 1 and Season Shipments

Reports on canners' stocks of canned corn, peas, apples, applesauce, RSP cherries, sweet cherries, apricots, peaches, and purple plums have been issued by the N.C.A. Division of Sta-

tistics, and detailed reports covering the November 1 stock and shipment situation have been mailed to all packers of these products.

	Carry-over month	Supply	Canners' Stocks, Nov. 1		Season Shipments to Nov. 1	
			1958-59	1959-60	1958	1959
Corn.....	Aug.	actual	37,258	42,823	27,301	32,009
Peaches.....	June	24/2½	28,540	33,689	n.a.	18,304
Apples.....	Sept.	6/10	2,746	2,763	1,959	2,001
Applesauce.....	Sept.	actual	11,927	12,871	8,245	9,336
RSP cherries.....	July	actual	2,851	4,326	1,515	2,359
Sweet cherries.....	June	24/2½	1,135	964	n.a.	563
Apricots.....	June	24/2½	2,482	5,180	n.a.	2,480
Peas.....	June	actual	41,005	38,670	28,305	23,934
Purple plums.....	June	24/2½	1,468	1,961	n.a.	1,233
Pineapple*.....	June	actual	20,147	18,874	11,160	9,518
Pineapple juice*.....	June	actual	14,113	13,466	8,055	8,710

n.a.—not available. \* Source: Pineapple Growers Association of Hawaii.

tinued to handle about the same percentage, but private trucks' share rose from 19 to 25 percent. The shift to private truck occurred primarily in distances under 100 miles, but was significant in other lengths of haul. The railroads' share declined in most distance groups.

Canned nonseasonal vegetables include dried beans, including baked; hominy; mushrooms; spaghetti, with and without meat; sweet potatoes; tomato paste, pulp, and puree; canned Chinese foods; etc. Canned specialties include catsup and other tomato sauces; pickles and other pickle products; mustard and other meat sauces, except tomato and salad dressings.

A limited supply of copies of this report are available from the N.C.A. Division of Statistics or they can be obtained directly from the Government Printing Office.

The following table summarizes the total tonnage originated for each of nine categories of canned foods and the percentage of that tonnage according to type of transport, for the period covered by the report:

Canned Food	Total tons originated	Percentage Distribution by Type of Transport			
		Rail	Motor carrier	Private truck	Other
Total.....	20,390	45	27	23	5
Meat.....	262	29	32	39	..
Milk.....	1,000	87	12	1	16
Fish.....	349	62	21	7	10
Fruits.....	2,885	40	23	14	14
Seasonal vegetables.....	4,088	42	19	36	3
Nonseasonal vegetables.....	2,472	38	29	30	3
Juices.....	2,734	39	32	21	5
Soups, baby foods and jellies.....	2,753	47	36	16	1
Specialties.....	2,803	21	39	25	12

## Grapefruit Sections for USDA

USDA announced on November 25 that it contemplates purchasing canned grapefruit sections for distribution in the National School Lunch Program.

Offers may be submitted for the sale of U. S. Grade A (Fancy) canned grapefruit to be packed subsequent to the date of award in No. 3 cylinder cans. Contracts will provide that not more than 10 percent of the contracted quantity may be of U. S. Grade B (Choice), at the contractor's option, at a discount of 25 cents a case.

Offers should be submitted to the Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., by December 8 for acceptance by December 11.

Delivery will be required during the period December 28 through February 29, 1960.

### N.C.A. Files Petition for Standard for Fruit Nectars

The N.C.A. on November 24 filed with the FDA a petition proposing the establishment of a definition and standard of identity for canned fruit nectars.

The proposal covers the following fruits, either singly or in combination: apple, apricot, blackberry, boysenberry, cherry, guava, loganberry, mango, nectarine, passion fruit, papaya, peach, pear, pineapple, and plum.

## Speakers Cite Recognition of Canned Foods' Safety

N.C.A. President Norman Sorensen and Executive Secretary Carlos Campbell addressed the Pennsylvania Canners Association convention November 23 on the subject of "Protecting the Good Name of Canned Foods." Mr. Campbell spoke of the scientific techniques employed by canners, at both the field and the factory level, to make sure that canned foods are made safe for the consumer, and how the various information and publicity programs of the N.C.A. constantly relay these facts to the consumer.

Mr. Sorensen complimented press and radio-TV media for generally fair reporting of facts dealing with the canned foods. He particularly noted the press handling of the stories last summer of deaths in Idaho from home-canned beets.

Tabulations of the beet story, he pointed out, showed that newspapers in every state carried articles. Of 1,161 articles with 28,442,216 circulation, 1,095 representing 24,536,839 circulation indicated that the deaths came from home-canned, not commercially-canned products. "Many of them made this point emphatically in their headlines, and 119 papers, with 7,116,819 circulation, went even further and included statements to the effect that there have been no deaths from commercially canned foods since 1925, since the industry long ago solved the problem of protection against botulism."

In the recent cranberry scare, Mr. Sorensen said that he observed many stories dealing with the safety of the products rather than with the danger. He found several papers and broadcasters anxious to present copy that would neither panic the public nor damage the industry. "I was particularly pleased with my hometown Milwaukee *Journal* for its fun-poking cartoon message: 'Eating 15,000 lbs. sprayed cranberries per day for life might cause cancer,'" he said. He noted that several of the papers quoted the statement of Dr. Edwin B. Astwood, of Tufts College, recognized authority on thyroid: "The weed killer contains a compound which affects the thyroid gland. It inhibits its action. This remedy has been used in medicine for 15 years and in no way causes cancer. The quantity of this chemical in cranberries would be minute and in no way causes any trouble—let alone cancer. This compound occurs naturally in vegetables: mustard, cabbage, turnips and broccoli—and no one

refrains from eating those because of this compound."

Fifty years ago, Mr. Sorensen stated, the industry would not have come out so well. In the days when the National Canners Association was being formed, canned foods were getting blackeyes daily, he asserted. "There was a popular misconception that they were dangerous. It was commonplace to find government and state officials casting doubt on the purity or safety of our products, almost daily. Press, pulpit and women's club speakers joined in this adverse criticism, victimizing the industry and its products," he said.

"That is why the canning industry was put on a scientific basis, why it established research laboratories, including those of N.C.A., and started its programs of quality control, its studies of spoilage causes, sanitation

methods, safe times and temperatures in processing, retorting studies and improved containers—all resulting in the safe and sound processed products to be found in nearly every American kitchen today. And during this same period the Association launched its policy of informing writers, editors, publishers, broadcasters—all who reach the public—of the methods of canned foods production. These are apparently well understood now by the public, or they wouldn't continue to increase their per capita consumption of canned foods year after year," he stated.

Highlights of Mr. Sorensen's address were reported in a press release issued by the N.C.A. Information Division to 353 newspapers and 183 radio-TV outlets in Pennsylvania as well as to the wire services and trade papers.

## Shipments of Metal Cans and Glass Containers, Jan.-Sept.

Shipments of metal cans and glass containers during the first nine months of 1959 have been reported by the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce.

METAL CANS				
	1958	1959	Per cent change from 1958	Per cent change from 1958
<i>(short tons of steel)</i>				
Fruits and vegetables:				
Jan.-Aug. ....	1,000,019	1,039,981	+ 3	
Sept. ....	262,005	262,807	+ 3	
Jan.-Sept. ....	1,271,024	1,305,204	+ 3	
Meat (inc. poultry):				
Jan.-Aug. ....	86,818	93,287	+ 7	
Sept. ....	11,111	16,378	+ 49	
Jan.-Sept. ....	97,929	109,665	+ 12	
Fish and seafood:				
Jan.-Aug. ....	78,679	79,870	+ 2	
Sept. ....	15,005	13,175	- 16	
Jan.-Sept. ....	94,284	93,040	- 1	

  

GLASS CONTAINERS				
	1958	1959	Per cent change from 1958	1958
	(thousands of gross)	(thousands of gross)	from 1958	Per cent change from 1958
Wide-mouth food:				
Jan.-Aug. ....	27,647	29,803	+ 8	
Sept. ....	4,240	3,876	- 9	
Jan.-Sept. ....	31,887	33,739	+ 6	
Narrow-neck food:				
Jan.-Aug. ....	9,502	11,574	+ 22	
Sept. ....	2,369	1,659	- 30	
Jan.-Sept. ....	11,871	13,233	+ 11	
Fruits and vegetables:				
Jan.-Aug. ....	86,818	93,287	+ 7	
Sept. ....	11,111	16,378	+ 49	
Jan.-Sept. ....	97,929	109,665	+ 12	
Meat (inc. poultry):				
Jan.-Aug. ....	78,679	79,870	+ 2	
Sept. ....	15,005	13,175	- 16	
Jan.-Sept. ....	94,284	93,040	- 1	
Fish and seafood:				
Jan.-Aug. ....	78,679	79,870	+ 2	
Sept. ....	15,005	13,175	- 16	
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